

of the solemn attention of the leading minds of the Church. Some of the paraphrases are not unobjectionable. Modern religious poetry does not abound with compositions of that fine solemn, gradational, doctrinal and yet devotional description, which seems to be required in a hymn ere the Church canonizes it and solemnly gives it a place in the devotions, sentiments and religious education of the people for generations to come. Prayers are in prose, and if the Church undertake a prayer-book, she can say exactly what she wishes to say, both in thought and expression. Not so in the composition of a hymn book. In forming such a compilation, recourse is had to the already composed pieces of a small number of Christian poets of all Churches, views and feelings. The difficulty of getting the right sort of hymns appears so great, that it is doubtful if an unobjectionable collection, sound in doctrine, pure and noble in sentiment, thrilling and inspiring in expression, will ever appear; and much may be said in favor of the opinion held by some that the Bible should be our only prayer book and hymn book. It is full of poetry, and can be sung as well as metre, our oldest psalm tunes possessing quite the character of chants.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in England for the union of all Presbyterian bodies in that country. The English Presbyterian College has acquired a legacy of £47,000 sterling. The Free Church and U. P. Committees on union have agreed upon a basis to be submitted to their respective supreme courts. Having entered into many points, it will invite discussion.

COLENZO has appealed from the condemnation of the Bishop of Cape Town to the civil court in England. Recent decisions cause many to look forward to the course his case may take, with great interest. If one may reject the substitution of Christ, the inspiration of the whole Word of God, and the eternal punishment of the wicked, and remain a minister of the Church of England and even become Archbishop of Canterbury, then what is Christianity?

THE public feeling in England has been shocked by the bursting of a large reservoir near Sheffield, resulting in a terrific inundation. The reservoir was 70 feet deep, and rushed down a valley covered with thriving villages, public works of all kinds, cottages and gardens, and has, in a few awful minutes, made it a desolation of mud and debris, and drowned over 200 human beings.

THE Prussians have attacked Duppel, and been repulsed with loss. It was expected that the attempt would be vain. The Italians are arming, and Austria may have to fight in a different cause in the South—not for, but

against nationality. Garibaldi has arrived in England, and is received with enthusiasm.

THE course of affairs in America has undergone but little change. Grant is now Commander-in-Chief, and his arrangements indicate an early movement. The Confederates are fortifying the line of the Rapidan. The members of Congress have ventured to express themselves in favor of peace and secession. An attempt to expel them failed; so that more freedom of discussion may now be manifested in that body. Throughout the country there is a mad cry for more war, a general love of extravagance among those who have profited by the national misfortune, and a great deal of suffering among the poor on account of high prices. The current paper money is depreciating so awfully that when the war ends, it will be worthless, and the conclusion thereof may be celebrated by a general conflagration of greenbacks and shimplasters from the Gulf of Mexico to the St. Lawrence, the smoke of which, politically, morally, and sensationally, may be enough to pollute the whole continent and even the whole civilized world. But the Americans must do everything on a great scale. Whatever may be their infatuation, all good people imbued with the spirit of the Gospel, ought fervently to pray, that angry foes, who should be loving brethren, would sheath the sword and cease from this awful strife. We ought deeply to sympathise with the thousands and tens of thousands of mourning and suffering families in that great country. May they learn wisdom and return to the Lord their God in their troubles! A. P.

BARNEY'S RIVER.—The Rev. Mr. Herdman will (D. V.) preach at Barney's River on the second Sabbath of May.

SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

1864	HOME MISSION.	
March.	Gairloch congregation, per Mr. D. Matheson.	£3 8 0
	St. Matthew's Church congregation, Halifax,	11 10 0
April.	St. Andrew's Church congregation, Pictou,	7 0 0
	West Branch East River congregation.	4 0 0
	St. Andrew's Church congregation, New Glasgow,	4 0 0
	Total,	£29 18 0
	SYNOD FUND.	
	St. Matthew's Church congregation, Halifax,	£9 10 0

MISSIONARY SERVICES.

Lochaber congregation, per Rev'd Mr. Stewart, £5 5 0.
W. GORDON, Treasurer.
Pictou, April 27th, 1864